

Scientific Report

Project title: «Human resources in poverty and disability: family perspective (Moldova and Ukraine): »

Project financed by the Vetenskapsrådet, Sweden (348-2011-7346 [2012-2014]).

Project period: January 2, 2012 – December 30, 2014 (The final report was submitted on 2016.03.31)

Project owner: UCRS, Uppsala University, Sweden

Project leader: Liya Kalinnikova Magnusson, PhD in special education, senior lecturer in special education, University of Gävle, Sweden

Popular description of the project:

The project took place in two countries: Ukraine and Moldova and was operated formally by Uppsala Center for Russian and Eurasian studies [UCRS]. Researchers from three universities participated in it, totally 15 researchers were supported by the project directly, (13 of them were senior researchers: 3 professors, 10 associate professors and 2 PhD students) much more – indirectly, through the open access project activities nationally and internationally (workshops, final conference, dissemination seminars, publications in national scientific journals and internationally etc.).

The project brought a number of implications in the applied for research area: methodological [developing our own research methodology], theoretical [based on interdisciplinary theoretical approach for analyzing and understanding poverty in families of children/adolescents with developmental disabilities- FChDD], created network among researchers [with the common scientific interests], etc.

The project started by the intensive seminars and workshops based on shaping project research methodology in 2012 and the beginning of 2013. Three European researchers, international fellows of the UCRS from Finland, Sweden and Scotland were invited by the project to bring their contributions, helping researchers, involved in the project, get knowledge and skills in research methodology. During three years, the project was realized through 9 research seminars; four international conferences (Ukraine [Kiev, 2013], Moldova [Chisinau, 2014, 2015] and Portugal [Lisbon, 2015]; individual research training in Sweden [UCRS, 2014]; ‘eye to eye’ meetings; Skype communication; preparation and publishing research articles in peer review journals and a final project conference book.

Both Moldova and Ukraine are societies in transformation, representing new independent Eastern partnership countries, associated with the EU. Poverty in FChDD had never received systematic investigation and had not become a strong part of the general welfare policy in these countries as well as has never been recognized in research areas dealing with these families and their children. Since the project was networking among the researchers, representing subject of special education, which in Moldova and Ukraine was traditionally rooted in Soviet Defectology, there was a theoretical gap to investigate and understand the study phenomenon.

One of the main implications of the project was made by lifting up an interdisciplinary theoretical discussion about poverty in FChDD. In several peer-review journal publications, a causal picture of poverty in the applied families has been analyzed. Governmentality and financial deprivation; inherited social "exclusion" and closed institutional practices of the Soviet welfare system; "human resources" and "family capital" were in focus as significant factors of structuring poverty in these families. We emphasized that in terms of financial burden and deprivation in similar economic circumstances FChDD are at a disadvantage and symbolize the "double poverty" in comparison with conventional families [KalinnikovaMagnusson, 2013, 2014, 2015].

The next research implication of the project was made out of a cultural-historical analysis of ideological roots and the social political doctrine of taking care of the children with disabilities and their families in Moldova and Ukraine. In these publications have been analyzed three ideological aspects of the family perspective. The first one existed as a strong output of the principles of developed socialism and socialistic humanism, proclaiming the primacy of the "useful member" of the society. In accordance to these principles, children with disabilities were recognized as "useful members" just in case if they were able to participate in Industrialization. Economical measurement of 'ability' was "impoverishing and devaluating" parenthood and its important role in taking care of their children was denied [system of closed institutions was established]. The second output is discussed through the phenomenon of poverty, which was never identified in political discourse by the reason of being contradicting the created ideal model of the state welfare system. Low income families were recognized politically in the middle 1970s, when the first targeted cash transfers in the form of benefits for such families were introduced in the whole Soviet Union. Among these families were FChDD. The final aspect belongs to the critical reflection on the system of special education, assistance of which was analyzed through unfreedoms in poverty and disability: reproducing circus of poverty, inertias process of inclusion, etc. [KalinnikovaMagnusson, Chiperi, 2014; KalinnikovaMagnusson, 2015, 2016; Kalinnikova, Maximchuk, 2015; Belibova, 2015; Khanzeruk, 2015]

The current situation in families, taking care of children/adolescents with developmental disabilities was described through a case study research, where parents shared their family life world experience. Three types of family structure where economical burdens were on the level of extreme poverty were described: a lonely father with mental retardation taking care of two adolescent sons [KalinnikovaMagnusson, Chiperi, 2014]; a lonely mother with mental retardation and her "intentionally (by mother wish) recognized as mentally retarded" daughter [KalinnikovaMagnusson, 2015]; a lonely mother upbringing two children with severe disabilities [Khanzeruk, 2015]. These investigations have identified deficits of number of family resources (cultural, demographic, economic, social, etc.) and emphasized that in both cases, where parents themselves got experience of special education, family resources to help their own children were extremely limited. Clearly aware that they don't have basic resources for everyday life to satisfy the needs of their children, parents were looking for the support (symbolically interpreting) from traditional institutions they had experiences of (psychiatric clinic or special internat), reproducing a strong dependence on the system. Two dilemmas were applied: "the lack of the economic resources in the family and extra resources in "special education institutions" and "reproduction of segregation and reproduction of life conditions".

Three more research investigations were focusing on survival strategies in low income families and some issues of empowering these families have been approached. S.Belibova [2013, 2014, 2015] was investigating social resources in families with many children, where

one of the children had developmental disability, in rural areas of Moldova. She concluded that social resources in these families are forming being under constant multifaceted stresses pushing these families to isolation and limiting their social resources. C.Bodorin [2013;2014;2015] has been developing the idea that families of children with hearing problems are 'substituting' lack of habilitative infrastructure in general, and creating special habilitative family resources specifically. Final research track was focusing on the investigation of vocational education and employment of students with mental retardation in Ukraine and Moldova. These research investigations were undertaken by I.Omelianovych [2013, 2014, 2015] in Ukraine and V.Maximchuk [2014; 2015] in Moldova and brought contributions into understanding the current situation in these countries and what structural challenges should be done in order to empower young people with mental retardation, creating resources for reduction and overcoming poverty.

Research in understanding the importance of human resources in poverty and disability from the family perspective was established, methodologically and theoretically formed, the first scientific generalizations were published in peer review journals in the involved in the project countries nationally [Ukraine and Moldova] and internationally [Russia and England]. Languages of the publications: Russian and English.

Main publications of the project:

1. ***(2015) THE BOOK OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "PICTURE OF POVERTY IN SOCIETIES UNDER TRANSFORMATION"/ "НАРАТІВ БЕДНОСТІ В УСЛОВИЯХ СИСТЕМОЇ ТРАНСФОРМАЦІЇ ОБЩЕСТВА", October, 23 – 25, 2014, State Pedagogical University named after I. Criange, Garamond, Chsinau, 362 p.***

Chapter 1. Development of the theory of human resources in special education, pp 30-142.

Kalinnikova Magnusson L. Crucial factors behind poverty in families, upbringing children with developmental disabilities (pre-understanding the situation in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine);

Bodorin C. Recourse of habilitation in low income families with children of hearing problems in the Republic of Moldova ;

Belibova S. Overcoming poverty: social resources in families with children with developmental disabilities (based on data from the Republic of Moldova)

Hanzeruk L.

Single mothers's upbringing resources of children with disabilities (based on the data from Ukraine);

Omelianovych I. The problem of employment of young people with mental retardation in Ukraine;

Chiperi N. Everyday experience of teens from a single parent extremely poor family [study from the Republic of Moldova];

Maximciuc V. & Kalinnikova Magnusson L. Social professional discrimination of young people with mental retardation in the Republic of Moldova

Bazîma N. Poverty effect on the upbringing of children with disabilities (based on the data from Ukraine).

2. (2016)

Kalinnikova Magnusson, L. (2016), [Journal of research in special educational needs (JORSN), forthcoming, in English) "One step ahead and two steps back": meeting special

education and inclusive challenges in the context of poverty (case study in the context of Republic of Moldova. The research experience is based on outputs from the international project «Human resources in poverty and disability: family perspective (Moldova and Ukraine): 348-2011-7346 [2012-2014]», funded by the Vetenskapsrådet, Sweden. During the last 20 years Moldavian and Ukrainian societies have been developing inclusive infrastructures, being under complicated transformative changes. There are two main tendencies of the current situation for children with disabilities. The first one is that the inherited system of internat special schools is rapidly changing its functions, expanding, due to work with children from marginal families. In this case economic polarization forms a specific family strategy to protect their children from family economic problems, “intentionally putting” their children in these special school internats. The second strategy is directed towards deinstitutionalization of the system of special school internats, the development of inclusive infrastructure and involvement the non-profit organizations etc. The article is discussing these tendencies, through a case study approach.

Khanzeruk, L. (2016), [Journal of research in special educational needs (JORSEN), forthcoming, in English] ON THE WAY TO INCLUSION: THE VISION FROM THE “MATERNAL FAMILY”. The present article covers the Ukrainian experience in one of the most complicated aspects of growing a child with the development disorder pertaining to such child’s growing in the maternal family. It provides definition of the notion “maternal family”, contains contemporary statistical data on the number of such families in Ukraine. It shows the role of maternal family in securing legal protection for the children suffering from the development disorders, inclusive education, cooperation with international organizations and some other initiatives.

Omelianovych, I. (2016), [Journal of research in special educational needs (JORSEN), forthcoming, in English]. EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS: CURRENT INCLUSIVE SITUATION IN UKRAINE. The present Article contains a research into the issue of employment and legal safeguarding of social protection of young individuals suffering from cognitive disorders in Ukraine. The importance of legislative guarantees of equal rights and possibilities for such category of individuals, in comparison with all other members of the society, in connection with provision of medical services, education and employment, was emphasized. The issue of employment of mentally retarded persons at the current stage was analyzed.

Belibova, S. (2016), [Journal of research in special educational needs (JORSEN), forthcoming, in English]. Social integration of children with intellectual disabilities from poor rural families of the Republic of MOLDOVA. This article addresses the issue of integration of children with mental retardation from poor rural families of Moldovan society. Thus, the article analyzes the current results of the data conducted for inclusion of children in the society, social networks of children and their families being considered. The article also proves the existence of certain problems on this regard in the Republic of Moldova.

Bodorin, C. (2016), [Journal of research in special educational needs (JORSEN), forthcoming in English]. INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND HABILITATION RESOURCE LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, EDUCATE CHILDREN WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA. The process of support and assistance to poor families raising deaf children in inclusive education of the Republic of Moldova. Emphasis on the need for the new strategy of the state in the organization of assistance to poor families, disabled children,

as well as new forms of working for rehabilitation centers, counseling and guidance structures close interaction of family, school, church, public authorities, public and charitable organizations.

3. Other project outputs: publications

1. (2013) Kalinnikova Magnusson. L. Problema chelovecheskih resursov i sotcialnogo kapitala v maloobespechennih semiah, vospitivajushih detej s narushenijami razvitiia [The problem of human resources and family capital in low income families of children with disabilities]. *Conference book of the XI Eastern and Central-European Regional Conference in AAC*, June, 28- July, 2, Institute of Correctional Pedagogy and Psychology at national Pedagogical M/Dragomanov University, Kiev, 2013, p.132-140.
2. (2013) Kalinnikova Magnusson, L. “Bednie vdvoine”: chelovecheskie i semeinie resursi [“Double poor”: human and family resources] // *Vestnik of the Northern Arctic Regional Federal University*, N6, 126-134.
http://vestnik.narfu.ru/en/archive/?ELEMENT_ID=147208
3. (2014) Kalinnikova Magnusson, L., et. al. Roditeli s umstvennoj otstalostju i semeinije resursi: narrativ sotsialnogo iskluchenija v situatsii ekstremalnoj bednosti (na primere Respubliki Moldovi)[Parents with mental retardation and family resources: the narrative of social exclusion in the conditions of extreme poverty (the sample from Republic of Moldova)]. *Naukovij Chasopis. Korrektsijna pedagogika ta spetsialjna psihologija*. Seria19, Vipusk 26, 2014: 433-441.
4. (2014) Kalinnikova Magnusson, L. Article in the Conference book. Spetsialnoje obrasovanije v razlichnih sotsialnih kontekstah: poiusk novih teoreticheskikh podhodov [Special education in different social contexts: search for new theoretical approaches]. *Kniga konferentsii: “Aktualinije problemi spetsialnoj psihologii i korrektsionnoj pedagogiki: teorija i praktika” Ed. by A.I.Ahmetsianova, 10-11 ijunia, 2014*. Kazanskii Povolzhskii Universitet, Kazanj: Otechestvo, Vipusk 8 362-371.
5. (2015) Kalinnikova Magnusson L. Crucial factors behind poverty in families with children with disabilities (pre-understanding situation in the republic of Moldova and Ukraine). *Bulletin of Yerevan University. Sociology and Economics*. (submitted 17.03.2015), Armenia. N 2, 42-57. (published on DIVA, open access journal also).
6. (2015) Kalinnikova Magnusson L. et. al. Sovremennaja sotsialnaja rabota i traditsionnoe spetsialnoje obrazovalije: Rossija i Severnije strani [Contemporary social work and traditional special education]. *Kollektivnaja monografija [Collective Monography]*. Editor T.Troshina. Publisher: Northern Arctic Federal University named after M.Lomonosov, 55-64.
7. (2016) Final scientific report to VR of the project: “Human Resources in Poverty and Disability: Family Perspective”, the popular description is submitted on DIVA of Gävle University.